



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF OPERATIONS SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS
OFFICE OF SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON DC 20420**

October 26, 2018

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 61073
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: #19-00477-F

Dear Mr. Craven:

This is in response to your October 3, 2018 FOIA request to the Department of Veterans Affairs requesting the following: "All field inspections of VA police department from the Office of Security and Law Enforcement since 2001."

In response to your April 17, 2018 request for these records, this office's response letter to you dated May 8, 2018, stated that VA Police inspection reports involve security sensitive information pertaining to police operations, procedures, and processes. The reports also include an analysis of each facility's police program, security planning, and vulnerability assessments. The retention period for most of these reports is three years. However, these records are withheld from release in their entirety pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 7(E) (5 U.S.C. Sec. 552(b)(7)(E)), which provides for the withholding of such information as law enforcement techniques, guidelines, and procedures. The public release of these reports compromises the security measures in place, risks circumvention, and nullifies the objective of the reports relative to the program's mission to ensure the safety and security of the facilities.

If you wish to appeal this determination, please send the appeal letter within ninety (90) days to:

Office of General Counsel (OGC/024)
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20420
Fax: (202) 273-6388
Email: ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov

Please include a copy of your request and this letter with your appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determination. Please mark the front and back of the envelope with "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

As an alternative to an appeal, you may contact VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and VA. Using this method does not affect your right to appeal. You may contact VA FOIA Public Liaison at Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420. Email: vafoiaservice@va.gov, phone: (877) 750-3642, Fax: (202) 632-7581.

Also, the office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests and administrative agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation and, at the discretion of the OGIS, may issue advisory options if mediation has not resolved the dispute. The OGIS is at the National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi road, College Park, MD 20740, Email: ogis@nara.gov, phone: (877) 684-6448, Fax: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely



Tanya Al-Khateeb
Program Analyst
Office of Security & Law Enforcement